

Amendment Dated December 18, 2007
Serial No. 10/608,601

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in this application is respectfully requested. By this amendment claims 3 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 5, 8, and 12 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner previously indicated that claim 8 contained allowable subject matter. Thus, in the previous amendment applicants amended claim 8 into independent form. The Examiner withdrew the indication of allowability of claim 8 in this Office Action. Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 8 back into its original form.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 5-6, and 17 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which it depended. Applicants have amended these claims accordingly and respectfully request that they be allowed.

Rejection of claims under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2, 4, and 7-11 were rejected under USC 102 as anticipated by Higgins (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,921), and claims 12-16 and 18¹ were rejected under 35 USC 102 over Gilman (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0079121). Applicants have amended the independent claims to include the features that were indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, this rejections are believed moot.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an action to that effect. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

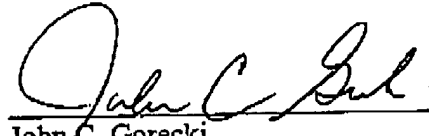
¹ The rejection states that 12-18 were rejected over Gilman, but the text of the rejection does not treat claim 17. Further, in the next section of the Office Action, claim 17 is identified as containing allowable subject matter. Thus, applicants have treated this rejection as applying only to claims 12-16 and 18.

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If any fees are due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502246 (Ref: NN-15918).

Respectfully Submitted

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